



JEŘÁBEK FAMILY FARM

Diversified farm with cattle, special crops, composting and additional construction activities.

Identification data:

Name: David Jeřábek

Location: Rybníčky, Ledeč nad Sázavou, Czechia

Farm size: 43 ha

In business since: 2017

Main products: cattle, poppy, mustard

Web / Facebook / Twitter: N/A

The farm of the Jeřábek family is located in the secluded town of Ledeč nad Sázavou in the Vysočina region. Now, the farm is divided between two generations - David and his father - to pass on experience and test the overall responsibility for running the farm. David is 27 years old and has been doing business in agriculture since 2017. He was mainly driven by the desire to build his own farm and participate in the creation of the landscape. In 2019, David graduated from the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague, majoring in Operations and Economics. To date, he farms on an area of 43 hectares of agricultural land and breeds 34 head of cattle. In crop production, he focuses mainly on the cultivation of special crops such as poppies, *Phacelia tanacetifolia* or mustard and fodder crops providing feed for cattle. In the future, he plans to sell farm products from the yard, as he would like to shorten the value chain.

Logically, David most cooperates with his parents' farm. Together they share one area, they help each other on the fields, with animals. Without parental advice and support, a start in agriculture would not be possible at all. Cooperation with other agricultural entities takes place at an informal level, mostly through mutual assistance with agricultural machinery. David sees an advantage in the better performance of some field work - for example, on the farm he has a large part of the production harvested by a neighbour's harvester. It achieves lower losses and higher performance. The disadvantage is the dependence on an external service provider, where, for example, the right sowing or harvest is decided by days and hours.

Also, David is a member of Young Agrarians' Society of the Czech Republic, where he holds vice-president position. This allows him to be in touch with most recent national and EU policy proposals, has certain possibility to affect policy development. Also, he can transfer the knowledge to his community, other fellow farmers in the region.

They also cooperate with other entities. As part of the diversification of production, the family is also involved in the collection of organic waste from nearby municipalities. The waste is used for their own composting facility. In cooperation with the surrounding municipalities and villages, they distribute containers on demand. This local cooperation significantly reduces the amount of waste in municipalities, contributes to a better state of the environment (short transport distances). For the farm itself, this source of bio-waste means a major benefit in the form of quality fertilizer.

Also, family operates specialized construction activities. This was supported by the Rural Development Program. A wheel loader was purchased from the subsidy. With this machine, we mainly operate site preparation or material handling.

Farm differs mainly in the production of special crops in crop production, as well as its geographical location. Since the 20s of 20th century, David's great-grandfather was active in agrotourism, which brought to the farm of the well-known Czech author of children's adventure novels and scout Josef Foglar.

In the future, David would like to further develop the already mentioned sales of products from the yard, develop and build a local market. David is still planning to develop a farm in conventional agriculture,

Viability of small farms managed by young farmers under new
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which only can ensure reliable and sufficient production of quality food. Today, farmers in the EU can produce far more ecological friendly than in other parts of the world. According to David, it is therefore unwise to give up production and import commodities from distant parts of the world.

In 20 years, he imagines that he will pass on the experience to future generations, who will share a love of nature, animals, and agriculture in general.

Photos:



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